



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
9301 CHAPEK ROAD
FORT BELVOIR VA 22060-5527

February 28, 2019

SAAA-LS

Austin R. Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005
Sent via email: foia@americanoversight.org

Dear Mr. Evers:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated November 30, 2018. Your request was referred to us by the U.S. Army Freedom of Information Act Division, Records Management Declassification Agency (RMDA). You are seeking records pertaining to your enclosed FOIA request. Your request was assigned our office tracking number FA-19-0064.

Under the FOIA, a government agency is required to make a "good faith effort to conduct a search" 5 USC 552(a)(3)(A). Our office requested a records search from the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs (OCPA). OCPA conducted a search and review for any records responsive to your FOIA request; however, this search failed to yield responsive records. We have determined this search was reasonable. See *Duenas Iturralde v. Comptroller of the Currency*, 315 F.3d 311, 3154 (D.C. Cir. 2003). Please be advised, the Department of the Army FOIA program is decentralized; therefore, we are only responding OCPA portions which falls under our purview.

For any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request, you have the right to contact the Army FOIA Public Liaison Officer, Alecia Bolling, by email at us.army.hqda-oaa-ahs.mbx.rmnda-foia-public-liaison@mail.mil or by phone at (571) 515-0306. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the national Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: NARA-OGIS, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001, email at ogis@nara.gov, telephone number (202) 741-5770 toll free at (877) 684-6448 or by facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

This letter constitutes a "no record" determination under the FOIA. This determination has been made on behalf of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army, who has designated that this office will act as the Initial Denial Authority for records maintained by the Office of the Secretary of the Army and its serviced activities. You have the right to file an administrative appeal with the Office of the Army General

Counsel within ninety (90) calendar days. See 32 C.F.R. § 518.17(c). Their mailing address is:

Department of the Army
Office of the General Counsel
104 Army Pentagon, Room 2E724
Washington, D.C. 20310

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the information furnished, please contact this office at (703) 614-5871 or email at usarmy.belvoir.hqda-oaa-rpa.mbx.oaa-cals-mailbox-foia@mail.mil. In all correspondence please refer to FOIA number FA-19-0064.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul V. DeAgostino". The signature is stylized with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul V. DeAgostino
Senior Counsel